

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed February 10, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully noted. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for One Month Extension of Time*, which extends the shortened statutory period for response to June 10, 2005. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on May 29, 1998, October 13, 1998, June 2, 1999, September 13, 1999, May 18, 2000, September 6, 2000, November 2, 2000, January 29, 2001, April 9, 2001, July 17, 2001, September 12, 2001, February 28, 2002, October 1, 2002, October 11, 2002, and March 5, 2003.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 21, 22 and 24-27 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Claims 1, 5, 7, 21, 22 and 24-27 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention, and new claims 28-49 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicants are entitled. The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-3, 5, 21, 22 and 24 (Office Action Summary, Paper No. 20050207). Claims 6-8 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner (page 2, *Id.*). Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5, 21, 22 and 24-49 are currently elected, of which claims 1, 5, 6, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 28-38 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action objects to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) asserting that "the recited feature 'a first means and a second means' ..." is not shown (page 2, *Id.*); objects to the specification asserting that "the specification does not disclose the features 'a first means for applying a first signal to the gate line' and 'a second means for applying a second signal to the wiring', as are now recited in claim 25" (page 3, *Id.*); and rejects claims 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, asserting that the Applicants did not have possession of the above-referenced features of claim 25 (*Id.*). Claim 25 has been amended to delete "a first means for applying a first signal to said

gate line; a second means for applying a second signal to said wiring, said second signal having an opposite polarity to said first signal.” Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the objections and rejections are now moot.

Also, claim 25 has been amended to recite that a first signal is applied to a gate line, that a second signal is applied to a wiring, and that a second signal has an opposite polarity to a first signal. These features are supported in the specification, for example, by page 6, lines 26-28. The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 25-27 are adequately described in the specification and definite as amended.

The Official Action objects to the drawings “for the reasons set forth in the PTO-948 dated 10/26/94 (Paper No. 4)” (Id.). The Applicants will prepare formal drawings upon the allowance of the claims of the present application.

The Official Action appears to object to the preamble of claims 27 (Id.). In response, the preamble of claim 27 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion.

The Official Action rejects claims 25-27 as obvious based on the combination of JP 01-156725 and U.S. Patent No. 4,955,697 to Tsukada et al. The Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP §§ 2142-2143.01, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in

the art. "The test for an implicit showing is what the combined teachings, knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, and the nature of the problem to be solved as a whole would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art." In re Kotzab, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000). See also In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

The prior art, either alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest all the features of the independent claims, as amended. Independent claim 25 has been amended to recite that a thin film transistor comprises a channel forming region comprising an amorphous silicon, which is supported in the specification, for example, by page 14, line 18. The claims have also been amended to remove features which are not believed to be critical to the patentability of the claims. JP '725 and Tsukada, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-referenced features of the present invention.

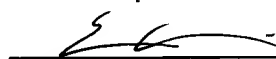
Since JP '725 and Tsukada do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

New claims 28-49 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicants are entitled. The new claims are based on amended claim 25 but do not recite that a first signal is applied to a gate line, that a second signal is applied to a wiring, or that a second signal has an opposite polarity to a first signal. Each of the new independent claims 28-38 recites at least one of the following features: that a thin film transistor comprises a channel forming region comprising an amorphous silicon, which is supported in the specification, for example, by page 14, line 18; that a wiring is a second gate line, which is supported in the specification, for example, by page 6, lines 1-2; that a pixel electrode comprises indium tin oxide, which is supported in the specification, for example, by page 18, lines 6-8; and that a second gate line does not

overlap a pixel electrode, which is supported in the specification, for example, by Figure 1A. Each of the new dependent claims 39-49 recites that an insulator is an insulating flattening film, which is supported in the specification, for example, by page 14, lines 26-27. For the reasons stated above and already of record, the Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 28-49 are in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric J. Robinson
Reg. No. 38,285

Robinson Intellectual Property Law Office, P.C.
PMB 955
21010 Southbank Street
Potomac Falls, Virginia 20165
(571) 434-6789